October 2026

Greetings to all the members and friends of the 531 Gray Ghost Squadron. I hope you have had a good 2026. Our squadron continues to connect Marines that served in 531 and our friends and family.

I hope everyone has seen the photos from our 2026 Reunion in Dallas, TX. They are posted on the reunion page of this website. Our reunion was in conjunction with the Marine Fighter Foray which brought together Marines that served in Fighter Squadrons in the USMC. It was a nice event to visit with our squadron mates and their families as well as other Marines that we served with. I would like to thank all those who helped set up this event and make it a success.

We started the reunion with a great dinner set up by Mike "Horse" Frese. This dinner served as the fundraiser for our squadron scholarship. An impressive $20,000 was raised through some very generous donations. We had a nice visit to the Medal of Honor Museum in Arlington, TX. If you can visit this museum, it is well worth the time. We got to hear some briefs about current events in the USMC. LtGen (Ret) Terry Robling gave a briefing about the new Flying Leatherneck Museum currently under construction on the grounds of former MCAS El Toro. Our squadron made a donation to this effort. LtGen William Swann, Deputy Commandant for Aviation gave a brief titled "What's On My Radar". MajGen Robert Brodie, Commander of 3rd MAW as joined by several Marines on a panel talking about current operations. Saturday night at the Banquet we were treated to a great speech by Gen Christopher Maloney, Vice Chair Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Our next reunion will be September 15-19, 2026, in Cherry Point, NC. We are planning this location for our East Coast members and hope to have a good turnout. Mark your calendars and look for more information in the next couple of months.

The Gray Ghost Squadron is always looking to connect with Marines and their families who served in VMFA-531. If you know of anyone who would be interested, please direct them to this website and the communication links. Doug Winslow is our fine Membership Chairman and would love to connect with anyone associated with the squadron.

Thank you to Richard Piechocki for maintaining our website. Anyone interested in our Squadron Scholarship please find more information on this website. If there is anything that I need to know about or an issue that needs to be addressed, please let me know at Rustysmith1521@gmail.com.

Semper Fi,

Rusty Smith